

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1938

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INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

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E.O. 11652:

TAGS: PINT,IT,FR

SUBJECT: KANAPA TO VISIT ROME FOR CONSULTATIONS

1. ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY FOREIGN SECTION CHIEF SERGIO SEGRE TOLD EMBOFF APRIL 7 THAT HIS COUNTERPART IN THE FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY JEAN KANAPA WOULD BE ARRIVING LATER IN THE DAY FOR A THREE OR FOUR-DAY VISIT. KANAPA INVITED HIMSELF TO ROME, ACCORDING TO SEGRE, INDICATING THAT HE WISHED TO DISCUSS INTER-PART RELATIONS IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE FRENCH NATIONAL ELECTIONS. THE PCI RESPONDED BY FORMALLY INVITING KANAPA.

2. SEGRE AND HIS WIFE PLAN TO ACCOMPANY KANAPA AND HIS WIFE INTO THE ITALIAN COUNTRYSIDE FOR THE WEEKEND. SEGRE HOPES TO UTILIZE THIS OCCASION TO OBTAIN A GREATER FEELING FOR DEVELOPMENT SINCE THE PCF. ON APRIL 10, KANAPA WILL MEET WITH PCI SEVRETRIAT MEMBER GIANCARLO PAJETTA (WHO HAS OVERALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS), FOLLOWED BY SESSION WITH PC SECRETARY GENERAL ENRICO BERLINGUER.

3. SEGRE CONCEDED THAT THE PCI STILL FINDS IT DIFFICULT TO

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EXPLAIN THE BEHAVIOR OF THE PCF AND NOTED THAT IN THE WAKE OF THE RECENT ELECTIONS THERE IS CONSIDERABLE FERMENT IN THE PARTY. REFERRING TO THE RECENT ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN, SEGRE SAID THE PCI TOOK A NEUTRAL POSITION REGARDING THE SPLIT BETWEEN THE FRENCH SOCIALISTS AND COMMUNISTS FOR WHICH SEGRE HAD RECENTLY RECEIVED A PRIVATE EXPRESS OF APPRECIATION FROM A SENIOR FRENCH SOCIALIST LEADER. IN ANALYZING THE

RESULTS OF THE ELECTIONS, AND THE BEHAVIOR OF THE FRENCH COMMUNISTS, SEGRE OBSERVED THAT THE PATH UPON WHICH THEY HAVE APPARENTLY SET OUT COULD ONLY HAVE BROUGHT HE DISAPPOINTING RESULTS THEY PRODUCED AND COULD WELL LEAD TO THE POLITICAL ISOLATION OF THE PCF.

4. PLACING THE FRENCH ELECTIONS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE ITALIAN POLITICAL SITUATION, SEGRE SAID THAT THEY HAD HAD A MAJOR IMPACT ON THE THINKING OF THE ITALIAN SOCIALIST PARTY (PSI). ACCORDING TO THE COMMUNIST OFFICIAL, THE ELECTION RESULTS AHD LED A NUMBER OF SENIOR PSI OFFICIAL TO REALIZE THAT THE ALTERNATIVE OF THE LEFT IS NOT A VIABLE FORMULA IN TERMS OF BRINGING THE LEFT TO POWER IN A MAJOR WERSTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRY. AS FAR AS THE PCI IS CONCERNED, THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PCF HAD CONVINCED IT MORE THAN EVER OF THE CORRECTNESS OF ITS OWN POLITICAL COURSE, ALTHOUGH SEGRE CONCEDED THAT THE CAUSE OF EUROCOMMUNISM HAD SUFFERED A SETBACK AS A RESULT OF THE FRENCH ELECTORAL RESULTS AND THE BEHAVIOR OF THE PCF.HOLMES

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